

Aftermath

by Spot's July

Category: Newsies

Genre: Drama

Language: English

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2000-06-18 09:00:00

Updated: 2000-06-18 09:00:00

Packaged: 2016-04-27 20:36:58

Rating: T

Chapters: 1

Words: 4,711

Publisher: www.fanfiction.net

Summary: the sequel to Show me the meaning of Being Lonely, the newsies deal with the death of a friend

Aftermath

> <meta name="Author"> Aftermath *****AFTER
MATH*****

> "self inflicted gunshot" the words rang in jack kelly's ears. it
couldn't
 be true, his sister was not dead. and yet she was, the
bulls had said so.

> "found in alley, so sorry, nothing we could do" bits of a previous

 conversation ran through his mind "taken to hospital, dead on
arrival,

> dead, dead, dead" the crying, the pain, the agony all around him.
how could
 a person live with such pain? now three days after
being told his one and

> only sibling was dead, he stood watching her casket being placed
gently in
 the ground, covered with dirt. it was all so final, so
unreal. his friends

> all around him in a sobered mass helped him back to the lodging
house, in
 turn helping themselves.

> three days and nothing but pain. and then anger, anger at his
sister who
 just left, who was in the end too weak to even
attempt to get help, anger at

> the man who did it to her, and anger at himself for not stopping
it.
 they arrived at the newsies lodging house, and climbed the
stairs slowly, no

> one knew what to say, or what to do, it was quiet, never had any of
them
 experienced such a feeling. up the stairs and onto there
bunks, no games

> were started, no stories told, nothing but the emptyness sunshine
left
 behind. they went to bed, but jack lay on his bunk, above
where his sister

> should have been and cried, pounding his fist into his pillow "how
dare ya
 sunshine" he mentally scream "how dare you leave me like
this" and finally

> fell into a tourmented sleep.
 the next day he didn't sell, but instead sat and watched Kloppman pack
> sunshines things into a box to be sealed, and never looked at again. the old
 man was crying, jack had never seen him cry. they didn't speak but simply
> cried together. It was then that a discovery was made, a discovey that
 changed jack kelly's life forever. it was sunshines journal, jack picked it
> up delicatly as though it might break, a letter flutterd onto his bed from
 inside "it's dated months ago" jack muttered looking down, and began to
> read.
 guys:
> i hope you never get this letter because if you do then it means
 the darkness really won. i'm writing this to you now, a week after my
> attack because already the depression is so great i can barely think. i
 hope you all can forgive me, for not being able to trust you anymore and not
> asking for help. i do beleive i am beyond help, and because of that i am
 sorry. i love you all, or at least i know i did at one point in time, but
> right now, i can't trust anyone in this world, knowing that some one would
 do this to a person. what happened to me is not nearly as bad as what that
> man did to the baby, that kind of cruelty let me know that all my dreams of
 yester year really were stupid, and that this world will never be a happy
> place. my innocence is gone, forever. innocence isn't something you can get
 back. Anyway i really just wanted to let you know that i am so very very
> sorry, i hope one day you'll forgive me. i know you raised me to be strong,
 but this time the the opposing force was too great
> love,
 sunshine kelly
> he folded the letter, and looked at her journal fingering the cover. he
 opened it flipping through the pages. towards the back where the pages were
> covered in holes where her pen had torn through the page in her rage. his
 tears started to fall more slowly and he began to forgive his sister.
> that night he read sunshine's letter outloud to the newsies, including spot
 who was staying at the manhattan lodging house for a few days.
> "poor sunshine" mush said sadly
 "yeah ta feel all dat pain, all alone" race said "it musta been awful"
> "but now were da ones wid da pain" spot said speaking up from the courner
 bunk where he'd situated himself "she didn't think of dat"
> "i think she did" jack said "i think she really was sorry" he'd said it,
 was, sunshine was in the past now, only to be remembered. "lets remember her
> how she usta be" jack said
 the newsies nodded their heads, but the pain was still there.
> jack stayed up late into the night reading sunshine's journal. it started
 out so nicely, telling of her days and her dreams, telling stuff he never
> knew. like her crush on mush, and her disire to be a missionary. stuff
 that he as her brother should have known. and then the darkness came,
> sweeping over her entries like night takes over day. the entries after her
 attack got worse, till they were morbid, stomach

turning passages that made

> him sick to his stomach. he could feel her pain, and it cut him deeply. it
 was around 4 in the morning when he finished. her last entry before she

> killed herself, though was what caused jack to reach his decision.
 "i only hope other people never has to feel this way, cause it is the worst

> way to feel"
 he knew what he had to do, he jack kelly would save all the people like

> sunshine, so no other brother had to ever feel the pain he was feeling.

> that night jack didn't sleep, instead he took sunshine's journal and went up
 to the roof to watch the sunrise. he re-opened the book, the last few pages

> were blank, not to ever be filled. as he went to close the book, a picture
 fell out of the back, it was of him and sunshine on the brooklyn bridge,

> taken by Denton three months after he broke her out of the orphanage. he
 remembered the day so vividly.

> "sunshine don't give that to him, you need it for your rent at the lodging
 house" fourteen year old sunshine would not be stopped though and gave her

> nickle to the younger boy in ragged clothes. "he needs it more then me
 jack" she said "common lets go see spot" they'd headed out meeting up with

> denton by the bridge, "take our picture denton" she said "yeah just us two
 kelly's" jack had said smiling at his sister. "ok guys smile" the flash of

> the camera was intense, forever immortalizing them.
 "jack?"

Blink shook his shoulder "jack, you ok?" jack looked up startled

> out of his day dream. "you sellin' today?" blink asked
 "no"

jack replied "i've got somewhere to go" "jack you ain't gonna do

> somethin' stupid are ya?" "no, i'm finally gonna do somethin'

smart" he
 said sticking the picture back in the book, and walked to the fire escape,

> climbing down and walking towards a tall brick building.
 hours later he walked back into the lodging house. the look on the newsies

> faces were filled with releif "guys, i ain't gonnna kill myself" he said
 "infact, i'm doin' what sunshine should of done...i'm bein strong, and i'm

> gonna make something good come of this" the newsies looked doubtful but
 listened anyway "so what are ya gonna do jacky boy?" spot asked "i'm goin'

> ta school, ta be come a pyhcologist, and when i'm done i'se gonna open an
 office for da mentaly hoit people, people like sunshine" he announced.

> "it's a nice idea jack, but where ya gonna get da money for all dat?" race
 asked. "i went ta the college today, they said i can take night classes, so

> i'se can still work, and there givin me something called a student loan" he
 explained. "on the salary of a newsie you'se gonna put yerself through

> school?" spot asked doubtfully. "no, i'se...i'se gotta leave you guys" he
 said "i've got a job at the law firm, now as a gopher but still making a lot

> more den now" "your leaving?" mush asked looking hurt. "yeah, i'll be
 selling on da weekends ta make some extra money

though...please don't be
> mad, it's all for sunshine" he said "i need to do something and this
just
 seems...right"
> "den i'm glad you'se doin it" spot said "sunshine would be proud"

 the newsies began to drift away, but mush stayed still. "don't
be mad at me
> mush" he begged "please it would kill sunshine if she knew you were
mad at
 me, she cared the world for you" he looked up "what are
you talkin bout
> jack?" he asked "look, read this" he said opening sunshines journal
to one
 of the first pages,
> "mush and i walked to brooklyn together today, i really like him
journal,
 he's so funny and sweet, not to mention cute. i know
he'd never feel the
> same way towards me, thats why we have to keep this a secret
between me and
 you, journal. and then maybe one day he'll like
me too and we'll be
> together, although jack would probably kill him for even looking in
my
 direction..."
> "I'se, I'se don't beleive this jack" he said. jack flipped the
page, and
 the page after, they all had his name on them. "i
think she loved you" jack
> said mush looked down trying not to cry, then looked at jack, a
single tear
 rolling down his face "i loved her too"
> The next night jack started school, accompnied by mush who after
reading
 sunshines journal, said that he wanted to help too. day
after day they
> worked then went to school, then went back to the lodging house
(where
 kloppman was letting them stay) to catch a few hours of
sleep. A year
> later, jack was promoted to a higher assistant spot in the firm,
and mush
 was making good money at the Sun, working as a
photographer. they both were
> doing well in school, but missed the newsies, whom they hardly ever
saw. by
 the time they got in from school the bunks were quiet,
kloppman asleep. "i
> miss them jack" mush said one day in between classes. "me too" jack
agreed
 "whata say we go meet them at tibby's for lunch stead of
selling our papes"
> mush grinned, selling papers instead of eating on their lunch hour
was
 getting old "yeah"
> they walked into tibby's run over by memeories. race was waving his
arms
 excitidly as he talked at the top of his lungs about the
race he'd finally
> bet correctly on. "heya bums, get back to work" jack said. "jack!"
Les
 yelled. the boys were quickly surrounded grinning ear to
ear. "what are ya
> tryin ta do get your old job back?" blink asked referring to his
position
 as leader "cause i'se ain't ready to give it up, i'm
sill trying to shape
> these here boys into honorable newsies" "jaaaaack" race whinned "he
makes
 us go ta bed at 11:00, at the latest" "yeah and when he
wakes us up he's
> worse then kloppman" Itey threw in. jack started laughing, "blink
what are
 ya doin' ta me boys? tryin ta toin dem inta pansies" he
loved using his
> old new york acent, instead of the one he used for work and school.
"lets
 eat" mush said breaking off the conversation he was having
with pie eater
> and specs. they sat, and talked, renewing their friendships.

when there hour was up, they looked at each other. "well i guess we'll see
> you tomorrow" jack said. mush grinned, and the newsies cheered.
"good
 jacky boy cause all work and no play makes a dull cowboy"
spot said from the
> door. "heya spot" jack said shaking spot's hand. "long time no see,
jacky
 boy, ise was beginin' ta think you'd gotten lost in da
library or somethin'"
> "neah spot, just trying ta make as much money as possible" he said,

 walking out the door, mush and spot following "been busy ya
know, me an mush
> here are tryin ta make a livin" "yeah i understan" he said "look
jacky once
 you get dis place up and runnin, you think you can
give me a job?" he asked
> "yeah sure spot, but you'se gonna have ta have some trainin, we
only want
 professionals" spot nodded. "i'se gotta get back ta
brooklyn, i'll see you
> guys later" mush and jack waved, watching him sauter off, with his
"i'm the
 ruler of brooklyn, no one messes with me" swagger.
>

 the years past, and at age 21, and 20 Derek "mush" myers, and
francis
> "cowboy" sullivan graduated from the new york university. together
they
 opened a small clinic in a nice neighbor hood. they had
three phycologists
> plus themsleves and spot who was in his second year of school. the
day
 before they opened the had been newsies got together.
> over the years they had stopped selling and gotten real jobs, race
was proud
 to say, that he was the assistant manager at
sheepshead races,
> blink had gotten married to a girl named Kelli, who happened to be
the
 mayors neice, and that was good enough for him.
> they stood in the freshly painted office, drinking sasperilla and
eating
 cake, celebrating the start of a new life.
> "hey jack?" specs asked "whats this?" jack followed his gaze, next
to his
 diploma was a framed page, "a passage from sunshine's
journal" he said.
> "one day i want to be my old self, one day i want
 to get off
these drugs, and get back to jack, and the
> newsies, and one day i want to be independent, but if my mind

does not allow me to do so, then give me the courage to ask for
> help" <p> jack looked down at his glass. four years and the pain
still ate away at
 his heart...four years and he still wasn't
over the pain of losing his only
> sister. mush came over and put his hand on jack's shoulder, four
years, and
 they were the best of friends, four years, and they
had brought themselves
> so far. jack looked up "i miss her, and this..." he said "is for
her" <p>

the next day "sunshine's-a clinic for the depressed" opened.
> they got one client, a 17 year old girl..who had been raped, and
left to
 die. Sunshine's dead eyes, were this girls dead eyes,
but she wasn't beyond
> help, jack knew that, no one was beyond help. he sat there and
listened,
 listened to her pour out her feelings, all angry and
hurt, scared, and
> upset. so this was how she felt, this is what she was going
through,
 sunshines journal stood open on a stand on his desk, he

looked at it after
> the girl left, and knew he was doing the right thing. the next day brought
 more people. all of them in need of help, and jack and mush knew deep down
> they were helping. <p>

grace, their first client came back a week later for her next appointment,
> her eyes, not quiet as dull, her speech not so angry. the pain still there,
 but not so dominate. "how are you doing grace?"

> jack asked "better" she said looking at him "what you said last week, about
 how i had to forgive, about how hate in my heart will consume me too...i
> thought about that, and i forgive that man jack, i forgive my parents, and
 i forgive myself, and your right, i do feel better."
> jack smiled softly "thats great grace" <p>

weeks passed, then months, the clinic was successful, they were making
> money, and were paying off their loanes. one day after the clinic closed
 for the day, jack sat in his office, doing the books. he looked up startled
> by a knock at the door "come in" he said
 a man and a women entered, well dressed, and looking very happy. "can i
> help you?" he asked "jack?" the man said stepping foward "it's me marques"
 jack looked confused " i worked with emily" he explained "o..oh" jack said
> standing up. "this is my wife rhonda, we came to thank emily for her advice
 all those years ago, if it weren't for her we never would have gotten
> married..." sunshine had written of that night in her journal, her last
 night as being sunshine...instead of the person she became, the person she
> died as. "someone told me that the kelly's were here now.." marques
 continued "so is emily around?"
> jack stood staring at them, it never got any easier telling people
 "i'm really sorry to tell you this...but, sunshine....emily, died, a few
> years ago" he said swallowing heavily
 "no..."marques said "what happened did she get sick? this can't be true"
> "it was self inflicted" he said softly, it made her sound cold, like she
 didn't care about the world, thats not how she was, not till the end.
> "i don't get it" marques said "she was so happy, so alive...she was my
 friend"
> "the night you left..." jack began "she was raped in an alley trying to save
 a baby, the baby was killed, and emily couldn't take it...she needed
> help...she just couldn't take it' he said shaking his head sadly
 "oh jack" marques said "thats terrible" he gripped rohnda's hand "i'm so
> sorry"
 jack nodded "this place..it's for her isn't it?" marques asked "yes, it's
> for sunshine" jack said
 "we want to help" to rhonda said "i never knew emily, but marques talked
> about her everyday, and how one day we had to come back to New York and see
 her, let us make a donation"
> "thats not neccessary.." jack began
 "please jack...let us, for

emily, for everyone else you guys help"

> he took out his checkbook, and wrote a check, ripping it out of the book and
 handing it to jack. \$1,000.

> "this is too much" jack said "take it" marques said "please"
 jack folded the check putting it in his pocket "thank you" he said shaking

> marques's hand "thank you so much"
 "good bye jack" he said "take care...it's a wonderful thing your doing, i

> know emily's proud" and they left.
 jack sat back down staring at amazement at the check. now they could hire

> more employees, and add more rooms, pay off the rest of their debts and
 further help the people "amazing" jack muttered. he didn't know how marques

> and Rhonda had made it big, and at this point in time he didn't care. he
 turned off the light, leaving the books till the next day and ran quickly to

> his and mush's apartment.
 he burst through the door "jack whats wrong?" mush asked "nothing" he said

> gasping for breath "one of sunshine's friends came back to see her, when i
 told them what happened they donated money mush-a lot of money" "how much

> money?" mush asked "a thousand dollars" jack said waving the check in his
 face. "you know what this means?" he asked "yeah" mush said "the clinic

> willl be better then ever" jack smiled nodding. "nothing can stop us now
 mush...nothing"

>The night was late, Jack was sound asleep in his bed. It had been three
months since the day the money came. The clinic was better then ever, and

>Jack was happy.
a ringing of the phone awoke Jack from his sleep.

>"Hello?" he asked groggily.
"Jack get down to the clinic now!!!!" Spot yelled.

>"Whats wrong spot?" Jack asked still half asleep.
"Jack it's on fire get down here now!" spot said

>Jack bolted up in bed "no" he whispered to himself dropping the phone and
pulling on the first set of clothes he came in contact with.

>"MUSH!!" he screamed.
"Wha?" Mush asked "get up and get down to the clinic, it's on fire" he

>yelled and ran down the stairs and out the door. <p>

The scene that greeted Jack wasn't a pretty one, already half the building

>has been touched as the fire fighters fought to tame the flames.

Jack
watched in horror as part of the roof caved in, and the fire spread even

>farther into the building. <p>

It was the longest night of his life, Mush had arrived a few minutes after

>jack and together they stood next to Spot silently watching there dreams
burn to the ground.

Around 5 a.m. the flames subsided just as the sun was rising. The building

>was still standing but the inside was burnt to a crisp.
"you can go inside tomorrow once the fumes die down and see what survived..."

>The fire chief said looking the boys over with sympathetic eyes.

jack
nodded mutely.

>"we still haven't found the cause of the fire" he continued "but we do
believe there may have been some foul play...do you know of anyone that

>would do his?" he asked.
Jack shook his head, as did spot and Mush.

>The man nodded briskly and with one last sympathetic glance left the boys
alone to stare at the ruins.

Jack stepped through the rumble carefully, everything was just a pile of

>ashes. The walls were stained black from the smoke, the chairs and desks
covered in inches of soot, too burnt to be of any use anyway, the papers and

>documents, were all gone. jack opened the door to his office slowly the
door creaking on it's melted hinges. "oh crap" he whispered everything was

>gone, his diplomas were no more. He looked around the room, something
sticking up from the pile of ash that surrounded his desk caught his

>attention. he walked over to it, gingerly picking up a book, the pages were
all burnt on the sides but the writing was still legiable, it was Sunshine's

>journal.
Jack stared at in disbelief.

>"Hey jack did you find anything?" Mush asked sticking his head in the door
"ohhh damn" he muttered then saw Jack standing there. "is that what i think

>it is?" he asked unwilling to get his hopes up. Jack nodded, and looked at
Mush who stood in shock.

>Jack closed the book and carried it carefully out of the room and back into
the sun, followed by mush and Spot.

Sterlings evil laughter was carried in the wind over to the boys.

>Jack turned around seeing the disgusting man who had over the years become
even more disgusting. Jack knew him anywhere, the way sunshine had

>described him in her journal wouldn't let anyone who read it forget.
"You" Jack said, "you did this didn't you?"

>"yeah just like i did your sister" he sneered.
Jack's mind went blank as he went after Sterling. spot and mush hurried

>over and restrained him
"You killed my sister" he said in a mencing whisper.

>"your sister ruined me, she deserved to die" Sterling said "she got me put
in jail that damn whore, thats all she was a hoe and a druggie"

>Jack's eyes flared angrily "no" he said "thats a lie, she became what you
made her, you did it, and now she's gone" Jack accused fighting to get away

>from Spot and Mush so he could give this guy what he deserved.

"Jack stop your better then this" Mush said

>Jack stopped thats what sunshine had always said when he was about to soak
someone. Jack stepped back "thats right, i'm better then this, i'm better

>then you, and your damn fire wont stop us" he said
"Harry and Blaze already got theres for turning me in" Sterling threatened

>"you'll get yours too" he screamed. and then ran in the other direction.
Jack stood there shaking, "lets go home" Jack said. Mush nodded, and Spot

>said good bye heading for his own apartment. <p>

Late that night Sterling was found dead, four bullets through his head a

>drug deal gone bad.
Jack stared at the newspaper. "No need to worry about him now" he said

>distractidly.
Mush walked through the living room, "yeah good to know huh?" he asked

>slapping jack lightly on the back and handing him his coat "common lets go
we have a buisness to rebuild"

>Jack grinned, shutting off the light and closing the door behind him.

<p>

*****EPILOUGE*****

>sunshine's a Clinic for the depressed reopened a few months after the fire.
it remained successful generations after the death of Jack, Spot and Mush.

Jack Married a factory worker named Jess.

>and mush who swore never to marry met a girl that eased his pain and brought
love back into his life. he married Nina at the age of 26.

> <p>

End
file.